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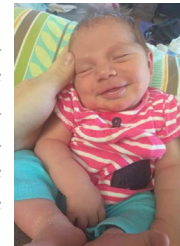
BLESSINGS OF HOME AND FAMILY

As foster parents, we received a phone call from Child Welfare asking if we were open to be a foster resource placement for a baby girl born that morning. We were told it would be a short term placement as she would be going to live with family in northern California. We drove to the hospital, to pick up this newborn baby who was not ours, and brought her into our family of three daughters, three dogs, four goats and countless chickens. In our already chaotic home, nothing could have prepared us for caring for a newborn baby suffering from addiction and withdrawal. We did not sleep, we held her close and we learned.



When a weekend turned into a week, DHS asked that we reach out to the family in California in order to start a bond with them so when the time came to move her, it would be a less traumatic transition. They came up the following day to visit. The next few months were a whirlwind of legal processes, including visits with the baby's biological mom, visits with family and lots of doctor appointments.

When a week turned into months, we became very close with the mom and did all we could to help support her as chances were given, services were offered and decisions were made. We were assigned a CASA volunteer and she was fantastic from the beginning. CASA Mickie was always engaged and responsive. She wrote court reports that moved everyone to tears. Mickie attended visits and was at every single court hearing, keeping everyone updated on what was going on with the case.



As months turned into a year, Mia grew, all smiles and contentment, happiness expressed in her chubby little cheeks and joyful laughter. Mom continuously struggled with substance use as family in California remained the legal adoptive resource. In our hearts, however, the sounds in our household, the arms she was held in while she napped, the smell of her laundered clothing, the laughter she shared with our three daughters...is all she had ever known. We gave her love and consistency and she became as much a part of us as we were of her. During a visit at our home when Mia was 18 months old, her biological family saw what a close bond we had and how much we loved this little girl. They made a very hard decision to step back from the adoption plan in order for us to adopt, as it was clear she was very bonded with us and already part of our family.



Our adoption for Mia May was finalized with CASA Mickie and our new California family by our side. What was supposed to be a weekend placement, turned into a lifetime. CASA Mickie was Mia's voice when she could not yet speak for herself. She was there through the most influential first two years of her life, making sure she was cared for, loved and safe. We wish for every child to know the blessing of love, family and a CASA volunteer.

Mike Ginger Sydnee Reagan Sierra Mia

Mike, Ginger, Reagan, Sydnee, Sierra and Mia



CASA'S ANNUAL I AM FOR THE CHILD LUNCHEON



*Pause with us and look up high,
To all the wonders in the sky,
Imagine together we can try,
To find hope in every new day.*

January 16, 2025

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

at the Rogue Valley Country Club
2660 Hillcrest Rd, Medford, Oregon

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Presenting Sponsor ~ \$5,000

Platinum Sponsor ~ \$2,500

Gold Sponsor ~ \$1,000

Table Sponsor ~ \$500

For reservations or to sponsor,

541-734-2272 | ecarpenter@jacksoncountycasa.org

MARY CURTIS GRAMLEY HOPE AWARD

We would like to thank The Anna May Family Foundation for their generous grant award in support of CASA. In addition, we express our heartfelt acknowledgement for awarding CASA of Jackson County the first Mary Curtis Gramley Hope award. This award, developed in 2023 after Mary Curtis' passing, and in consultation with her husband, Dale, is designated to agencies who exemplify the spirit of Mary Curtis and her lifetime of work with children and families.



Mary Curtis wanted to leave a message she did not want people to forget. Her message is as follows:

"I have had the privilege of working with amazing professional caregivers over many years. It has been an honor to share concerns and contribute time and effort to very young children at risk. My level of concern and care has been a commitment to these children as future citizens of this community. My belief in their viability and capacity to become positive members of this community rests with our investment in them individually and collectively. Each child's wellbeing deserves respect, top to bottom.

I am thankful for the opportunities I have had, the meaning it has given my life, and the joy each child has brought to it. Please do not let our children down. Their voices must be heard, because our listening will give them hope. Inclusion, diversity and understanding must accompany the work that follows. It is the child that empowers and creates the needed change and success of all programs."

In memory of Mary Curtis Gramley, who was such an instrumental part of our CASA program, we are honored.



Community Partner



CASA OF JACKSON COUNTY, INC.

409 N. Front Street
Medford, Oregon 97501



COMMUNITY HOPE



Jennifer Mylenek
Executive Director

Imagine a child facing the world without a trusted adult by their side. For many children in our community, this isn't just a fear—it's their reality. Every year in Jackson County, more than 700 children enter the Child Welfare system due to abuse or neglect. These children urgently need a CASA—Court Appointed Special Advocate—to stand by them and to serve as their voice in the court.

CASA volunteers offer more than just advocacy; they provide a lifeline of stability, safety, and trust. Serving as the eyes and ears of the court, CASAs observe the child's needs, report their progress, and make recommendations that prioritize the child's best interests. Judges rely on CASA reports, knowing they come from advocates deeply invested in the child's well-being. For the child, having a CASA is more than legal advocacy—it's often a beacon of hope, an anchor that boosts their self-esteem and helps them envision a brighter future.

Yet, despite a mandate that every child in need be appointed a CASA, Oregon's funding falls far short of meeting that goal. Our program relies on the generosity of people like you—community members, businesses, and foundations—for over 75% of our budget. We turn every dollar donated into five through the power of over 200 dedicated local volunteers, ensuring that donations directly translate into life-changing support for these children.

Your support, whether a financial gift or a volunteer hour, has a profound impact. Together, we can give each child not just an advocate but a chance to reclaim their childhood and build a brighter future.

J Mylenek

Jennifer Mylenek,
Executive Director and Child Advocate



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THANK YOU, WORKSPACE!



While cleaning out their warehouse, **workspace** reached out to see if CASA was in need of donated furniture. The timing was perfect, as we



have been working to furnish our newly expanded office in Josephine County all through donations! There are no words to describe the experience of walking through a warehouse of items we could only dream of on a non-profit budget. Such a gift! **Workspace** delivered beautiful furnishings to both of our offices in both Jackson and Josephine County and installed items as well. Such an amazing, generous and talented team. From all of us at CASA, thank you!

THANK YOU, KILLER BURGER!



Together, the **Killer Burger** Superhero Team (pictured above!), customers and our community raised a grand total of \$7,302.67! Our Board, CASAs and Staff thank you for your continued support! We appreciate all that you do for us and truly value this partnership!



A CASA volunteer plays an extraordinary and transformative role in the lives of children who witness domestic violence. In these cases, our CASAs become a safe, caring presence who listens without judgment, validating the experiences of these vulnerable children. Domestic violence is often cloaked in a culture of silence, entangled with shame, guilt, and self-blame. Our CASAs help break through this silence, offering children someone they can trust, respect, and rely on to see their worth and value when they might not see it in themselves.

What makes the CASA role truly unique is the unwavering commitment to the child's best interest—a vision that stands above all else. Our volunteers are the one steady, devoted advocate in the child's life, always present to ensure they receive the support and stability they deserve. With a CASA by their side, children facing these challenges have a compassionate guide to help them navigate their journey with strength and resilience.

CASA GIVING TREES



Each year the CASA Giving Tree campaign is a special way for the community to participate by donating new toys, clothing, and gift cards to vulnerable children who are living in foster or relative care during the holiday season.

These children have been removed from their homes and families due to abuse and/or neglect. This is an opportunity for CASA, the community and the trained volunteers who advocate for these children to ensure they have a holiday season filled with love, hope and joy.

A sincere thank you to our **CASA Giving Tree sponsor, Lithia 4Kids**- a partnership we value as we work together to support the children in our community.

Together, Lithia 4Kids, our many tree locations, individual family sponsors, special toy drives and community members helped over 628 children last year.

Tree locations will be listed at www.jacksoncountycasa.org

An Amazon wishlist is available for those who prefer to shop from home.

Donations toward gifts for CASA children may be mailed or completed online.

Specialty Gifts!

New this year, we are looking for groups, businesses or individuals willing to focus on creating special gifts for CASA teens. A coffee tumbler with coffee gift cards, movie buckets with popcorn, candy and a Tinseltown gift card, a gift box full of art supplies, etc.

CASAs so appreciate having these thoughtful, packaged gifts for teenagers!

If you would like to host a tree location, sponsor a CASA family, or be creative with specialty gifts,

please contact Erin Carpenter: ecarpenter@jacksoncountycasa.org

